

Assignment TV

By TERRENCE O'FLAHERTY

Perhaps it's just as well that Count Dracula died the way he did. Without that stake to keep him steady, he would be spinning in his coffin every Thursday night in the basement of a castle somewhere in Transylvania.

That is the night CBS presents "The Munsters" to society. This is the second domestic comedy of the season to be built around a family of weirdos. The first was "The Addams Family," which holds open house Friday night on the ABC network.

The Munsters are just a normal American family except Daddy looks like Dr. Frankenstein's pre-fab monster with the peg in his neck, Mommy looks like Vampire, and Gramps is a dead ringer for Count Dracula.

THE ADDAMS characters are based upon the macabre delectability of the Charles Addams humor. Any one of his cartoons suggests a plot for a complete episode. Already they're preparing one based on the famous Christmas carolers singing in the snow in front of the Addams home, while the family prepares to pour hot lead on them from the rooftop.

The Munsters are not so fortunate. Their premise is a shaky one and the writers are not nearly as inventive. The only line in the program that I found funny could have come straight from Charles Addams. When the baby sitter complained to Mrs. Munster about the strange noises coming from her son's room, she answered:

"Good heavens, don't all children howl when the moon comes up?"

FRED GWYNNE, the horse-faced cop in "Car 54, Where Are You?" plays the Frankenstein character, complete with the heavy shoes and the peg through the neck. He is a fine comedian and an interesting human being and he deserves a part that uses his talents without causing him to spend two hours putting on his make-up.

Yvonne de Carlo was never known as much for her acting as she was for her costumes and this still holds true in the role of Lily Munster. Al Lewis is the only one who's having any fun. He plays Grandpa Munster with all the zest of the character lead in a Victor Herbert operetta.

Did I say that the Munsters have a niece who is normal? Well, they do. She can't understand why she keeps losing her boy friends after she introduces them to her folks. Frankly, I think it has nothing to do at all with the Munsters. It's just the lines she was given.

The generation weaned on the cozy apron-and-antimacassar comedy of "The Donna Reed Show" and "Ozzie and Harriet" may choke up a little

on the new Charles Addams television characters.

ON THE OTHER hand Americans get bored easily and maybe the Nelsons and Reeds have brought it on themselves. But one thing is certain: there's a big distance between "One Man's Family" and "The Addams Family" and the space is cluttered with fragments of Freud, a World War, the rise of sick humor and the fall of innocence.

The Addams family may be surrounded by signs of violence but to themselves they're just plain folks, an affectionate group, living among their heirlooms. It's the people on the outside who are strange. The opening program had the two youngsters returning home in tears after their first day at school.

"Daddy it was terrible! They killed the dragon!"

"Who would ever want to kill a dragon?"

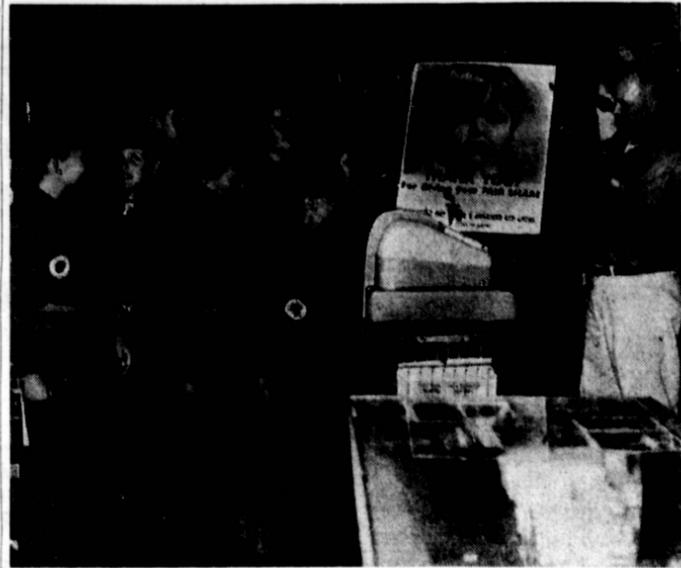
"The knight in shining armor!"

They also rebel at a pair called Hansel and Gretel who push an innocent old lady into an oven.

"IT'S A STORY OF JUVENILE DELINQUENTS!" says Morticia Addams.

The family is against pesticides and refuses to trim the garden because it is a home for so many insects. The hangman's noose is used to ring for servants and Mrs. Addams trims the blooms off the roses ("The thorns are so much lovelier this year").

I have some difficulty reconciling the innocence theme with father Addams' pleasure at colliding trains or the little girl who plays with the headless "Marie Antoinette" doll or the stuffed swordfish with the man's leg in its mouth... but truthfully I found the Addams Family a lot more attractive than some of my own neighbors who are sweet and conventional on the outside and creepy inside. And they're a lot funnier.



TROOP WORK . . . Members of Torrance Boy Scout Troop 796 distribute posters for United Crusade at the Torrance Cycle Shop. Accepting a poster is Paul Smith, one of the shop's proprietors. Boy Scouts of America is one of 310 agencies and 13 Red Cross chapters supported by the appeal.

Contracts Awarded for New School Classrooms

Construction contracts for the addition of classrooms at two schools in Torrance were awarded to the Volz Construction Co., Inc., Monday evening by the Board of Education.

The contracts call for the addition of eight classrooms at Victor Elementary School and six classrooms at Madrona Elementary School. Both additions will conform to the architectural style at the schools.

Construction at both sites will be permanent. The schools are located in areas of great growth potential.

The amount of the combined contracts was \$241,800—some \$73,000 below the architect's estimates. The classrooms are expected to be ready when school opens in September, 1965.

In other matters, the board:

- Awarded a contract for alterations to baseball backstops at South and West high schools. The alterations will lessen the danger of balls being hit into surrounding yards.

- Rejected and ordered re-advertised bids for lecture room seating at West High School. New specifications for the auditorium-type chairs are being drawn.

Enrollment Ceilings End Up in Basement

A plan to put ceilings on elementary school enrollments at three district schools drew both praise and criticism from members of the Board of Education Monday evening.

Dr. J. H. Hull, superintendent of schools, proposed ceiling be put on enrollment at Victor, Adams, and Calle Mayor schools. All three schools are nearing capacity. Dr. Hull proposed open attendance district for the three schools when enrollment hits the ceiling.

Trustees generally favored some redirection—to be administered by school principals—but did not approve the ceilings. Bert M. Lynn told board members he wasn't "going to be sandbagged into putting enrollment ceilings on the schools."

"It's amazing how the administration can find a classroom if they need it," Lynn said.

Dr. Kurt Shery, president of the board, recalled the boundary changes made before school opened and declared, "The whole thing doesn't make sense to me." Dr. Shery said the board had changed the attendance boundaries to provide room in the school for growth, and now the board is being asked to send children in the new districts to some other school.

The administrative staff

Ladies Guild Sets Two-Day Rummage Sale

The Ladies Guild of the Central Evangelical United Brethren Church, Marcelina and Arlington avenues, will hold a rummage sale Thursday and Friday.

Donations for the rummage sale should be delivered to the Guild Hall today. The sale will begin at 9 a.m. and last until 5:30 p.m. each day.

Persons desiring pick up service for their donations may call FA 8-2403 or FA 8-5339.

GUEST ARTIST
Violinist Toni Marcus of the Jack Benny Show was the guest artist at the annual Marymount College Faculty-Student dinner.

The Continental Room

THE ULTIMATE IN HAIR STYLING

GET ACQUAINTED OFFER

FREE HAIRCUT WITH STYLE & SET MON. THRU THURS.

HENRI Formerly of Continental Coiffures

LOUIE Formerly of the Plush Horse Beauty Salon

Continental Room

4411 TORRANCE BLVD., TORRANCE
CALL NOW FOR YOUR APPOINTMENT
DON'T BE LEFT OUT... 370-5615

Melody Chorus To Appear at Youth Rally

The Melody Chorus, under the direction of Mrs. Evelyn Swan, will appear at the Manhattan Beach Community Baptist Church Saturday evening.

The chorus will sing at a Youth for Christ rally, slated for 7:15, Hal Stack, one time member of Long Island's 12th Street gang, will be the speaker.

The church is located at Artesia and Prospect avenues.

BOOK FAIR A HIT

Over 10,000 people browsed through a series of stalls at the Palos Verdes Peninsula for the third annual Marymount College Book Fair. Mrs. Ludwig Zelt was chairman, and proceeds will provide new volumes for the college library.

Call in your **GENERAL TELEPHONE COMMUNICATIONS CONSULTANT**

...get a **COMPLETE COMMUNICATIONS SURVEY**

A communications survey is like a medical checkup. To be of real value, it must be complete and done by a recognized expert in all phases of business communications.

That's where our Communications Consultants come in. Their analysis of your business operation in relation to your business communications needs is extremely valuable, and often leads to increased profits. They are highly trained not only in regular telephone techniques, but also all modern communications such as paging systems, intercom, data transmission and TWX.

Whether your business is large or small, we provide this expert service free of charge.

For a free analysis of your business communications, phone our Business Office Representative today.

GENERAL TELEPHONE America's Largest Independent Telephone System

A **HAMMOND ORGAN** IS magical

HAMMOND ORGAN STUDIOS 2768 SEPULVEDA TORRANCE—DA 6-1141

Daily 10 a.m. to 9 p.m.—Sat. 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.—Sun. 1 p.m. to 6 p.m.

Why Pay Twice?

It would cost Californians over \$300,000,000 in additional social security taxes for the proposed federal "medicare" plan—where medical care programs are already provided for those over 65.

The physicians of California consistently have maintained that adequate medical care should be available to all people of this State, regardless of race, creed, color or financial status.

For those over age 65 in California, health care is provided in many ways. There are medical insurance programs which can be bought independently at reasonable cost. Other private and public programs are available where extensive medical costs would be a hardship.

The recent Kerr-Mills law, for example, enables California to provide broad benefits to those over 65 who might have difficulty in meeting the expenses of prolonged illness. With its full application in this State, as urged by California physicians, the Kerr-Mills law would be even more effective in covering physician, hospital, nursing home, drug and dental needs.

No better care for the elderly will be provided by taking an additional \$300,000,000 in "medicare" social security taxes out of your pockets, when health care programs are presently available.

Los Angeles County Medical Association
California Medical Association